



Please join
us for some
foraging!

Brunch With the Birds

Sponsored by Friends of Stone Lakes NWR

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

**Sunday, November 17, 2019 from 11:00am to
1:00pm**

Blue Heron Trails

**Join us at the Amphitheater for a light brunch
and good company of all species.**

- Learn about the Refuge and its wild inhabitants
- Take a Nature Walk with the Refuge Manager
- Have a guided tour of Blue Heron Trails and our newest attraction, Little Green Heron Playscape

We hope you will be part of the flock!

For more info, go to www.friendsofstonelakes.org

Know YOUR Refuge!



Everyone talks about endangered species -
We are doing something to help them: Providing protected habitat!

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Pacific Flyway, is home to increasing numbers of resident and migrating wildlife, some of which are endangered or threatened.

The Refuge features many types of habitat: lakes, marshes, ponds, grasslands, riparian forests, sloughs, vernal pools, and privately-owned farms.

Waterfowl frequent the Refuge at different times of year and each have different habitat needs. The Refuge staff must fine tune each of the various habitats.

For example:

- Shore birds come in summer and like shallow marshes with mudflats.
- Ducks and geese come in the Fall and like deeper water for swimming and foraging.
- Sandhill cranes come in the fall and need grasslands, harvested crop fields and shallow ponds for foraging and roosting at night.
- Egrets and herons roost in the trees of the riparian forests along the waterways and hunt along the shores.
- Endangered fairy shrimp live in vernal pools.

Refuge staff works hard to manage all these habitats through changing seasons and weather conditions. As a result, the wildlife thrives each year.

The Refuge is a wonderful resource for education and wildlife viewing. With the help of Friends of Stone Lakes, the Refuge hosts many school children on educational field trips. A highlight is the annual "Nature Bowl", where children compete to find answers to environmental questions. The mile-long, accessible walk at *Blue Heron Trails* has information along the way to explain what you are seeing. *Little Green Heron Playscape* is a natural play area for young children, complete with a *native pollinator garden* for attracting birds and insects. These amenities are free and open to the public daily from dawn until dusk.

During different seasons, you can experience areas of the Refuge, normally closed to the public, through guided walks or paddle tours. For more details about these tours and other activities, go to:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Stone_Lakes/visit/visitor_activities.html

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful resource. Come and be surrounded by nature's sights and sounds! You'll be glad you did.